

FROM: John P. Shanley (212 LO 4-8000)  
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NEW JERSEY REPORT

Special guest: Cyril D. Tyson, United Community Corporation of Newark

Guest interviewer: Douglas Eldridge, Newark News

Moderator: John Scott

WOR-TV Channel 9 Sunday, January 23, 1966 9:30 - 10:00 A.M.

Dong!  
Sorry I didn't  
get to meet you. Hope  
to see you on your  
next visit.  
Tom Tom for

(Text prepared by Radio TV Reports)

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JOHN SCOTT: "Good morning, and welcome to New Jersey Report. I'm John Scott of WOR-TV News. Each Sunday morning at 9:30, Channel 9, as a public service, presents an interview with an official in the State of New Jersey, in order that viewers might have a better understanding of how their state functions, some of its problems, as well as its hopes for the future.

"This morning we're very pleased to have with us as our special guest, Cyril D. Tyson, who is Executive Director of the United Community Corporation of Newark - that's the city's anti-poverty agency - and Douglas Eldridge, reporter of the Newark News.

"Gentlemen, I'd like to address this question first of all. Newark is officially described as a depressed area, and naturally the poor of Newark cannot improve their position, Mr. Tyson, except as the city, itself, improves. There can, therefore, I'm afraid be this vicious cycle of lack of improvement, then frustration breaking out at this situation. Sociologists tell us that this can be the setting for incidents of violence. Do you foresee, in Newark, incidents of violence - in the foreseeable future, say?"

TYSON: "No, John, I do not. I think that the residents of Newark have a sense of hope, not only because of the Anti-Poverty programs that have come into Newark, but because of the process that United Community Corporation has been involved in organizing them so that they are - they more fully participate in the democratic process and decision-making."

"Part of an analysis of riots would indicate that the frustration is not just the fact that people are poor and have no services,

the frustration also relates to the fact that people don't feel a part of a given community. They feel alienated. They feel that they can't effect change. So that to the degree that you can make it possible for people to be involved in the process of decision-making and policy, or in things that affect them, then they're in a better position to - not to riot until even specific programs that can ameliorate their conditions can take effect."

SCOTT: "And carrying this just one step further now, sir, you represent the establishment - you represent the man upon whose shoulders the establishment has placed the responsibility for carrying programs into effect. Could you not be, yourself, accused of carrying out of programs of the establishment that alienate you from the people you're trying to reach most?"

TYSON: "Oh yes, I'm sure that's been said - even in the city of Newark - by certain segments of the community. Often what happens is that the poor, or those who feel outside, contend that at the point at which those who ~~were~~ may have been outside at one time are now a part of the so-called establishment, that in some way that adjusts the basic ethical framework of that individual.

"I feel confident that the programs that we're developing in Newark and that the whole thrust and style of organizing the poor that ~~we~~ we've developed, will prove that I have not - quote-unquote - joined the establishment - if establishment is a negative term."

ELDRIDGE: "My. Tyson, there's been a lot of discussion recently about conflict across the country between big city mayors ~~and~~ and some of the new Anti-Poverty agencies. Have you encountered any kind of conflict in Newark between the Mayor and

your agency? Has the Mayor given your ~~organization~~ <sup>corporation</sup> his wholehearted support? Would you say that he's attempted in any way to limit it or control it?"

TYSON: "Certainly he's given us support in the sense that he approved the United Community Corporation as the Anti-Poverty agency of the city. Secondly, that he supported the request for the initial grant of \$15,000 that came . . . from the City Council. Third, he supported the concept at that time of a private corporation being the instrument for waging the war on poverty. I think that the Mayor and other city officials have had some concern about the extent of representation of government on the policy board of the corporation. Particularly since, as the programs developed, it was clear that they would be citywide in scope.

"I think that to the degree that that is their concern - I think it's a valid concern - and I think that our board has recognized this as a valid concern, and have been moving, through its Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to prepare resolutions for the membership to allow the possibility of broadening the board."

ELDRIDGE: "You don't feel that there has been any attempt by the city administration to interfere with the independence of your agency then, or to try to gain control of it?"

TYSON: "Well it's never been expressed to me that way. It's always been expressed in terms of the fact that there is not enough representation, and after all, these individuals either represent

the elected officialdom of the city or heads of major departments of the city that are affected by Anti-Poverty programs."

SCOTT: "Well maybe I can phrase this question just a little differently. You have said that government rightfully has a role in ~~xxxx~~ the Anti-Poverty agency, certainly the poor has a role here - the question was, has the Mayor given you a great deal of support? You have mentioned the support he's given you, but do you think he's given you that vital sort of backing which can make UGC really take off and become the most effective agency of its type - perhaps in the nation?"

TYSON: "Well, you'd have to talk about, you know, specifics of backing. I think that the Mayor probably could be more helpful in effecting financial ~~xmp~~ response from the City Council, even though he's always supported our requests. Our requests go to the City Council through the Mayor and all of our requests have been supported by the Mayor. But I think, realistically, the governmental structure has to feel more secure and must feel that they are really going to be full partners, in terms of their perception of partnership, before you get, maybe, the broadening of support that one would expect in the community."

SCOTT: "Just to push it one step further. The Mayor has announced that he is a candidate for reelection this year. Do you think that this would help him, politically, if he got behind you and gave you this sort of push - really more than just pass on your requests to the City Council in full?"

TYSON: "I don't know, because I can't say that the people in the community who will be doing the voting perceive that the Mayor has not done this. If there was some clear indication that they felt he did not give this kind of support, then I would assume that it's to his advantage to clarify that. But of my knowledge, I don't have a sense that the community generally feels that he has not supported the Anti-Poverty program."

ELDRIDGE: "The other night Dr. Kenneth Clark spoke in Newark, I believe you were present when he did. One of the points that he made then was that the success of Anti-Poverty agencies can almost be measured by the amount of conflict that they have with local officials. And if I recall correctly, he said something to the effect that if an agency has little conflict with a mayor or a city council, it can be assumed that the agency is more or less irrelevant. Do you subscribe to this view?"

TYSON: "I think it would have to be within the context of whether that agency, as a private corporation, because there are many Anti-Poverty agencies that are governmental agencies, so I assume he was talking within the context of the private corporation - I think it would depend on whether that private corporation had representation from the government on its governing board that made it possible to reach consensus from a policy point of view.

"To the degree that it tends not to have this, then you get this polarization. So that in Newark, for example, I would assume that with the increased membership of city officials on our board,

that this would lessen the possibilities of this kind of conflict and it's possible to move forward and develop creative programs that profitably affect community life."

SCOTT: "Then this consensus would not make you irrelevant?"

TYSON: "No, not within this frame of reference, no."

SCOTT: "You've been in business about a year now, excuse the expression, but you've been functioning about a year. What are the achievements of which you're most proud, Mr. Tyson?"

TYSON: "I think, first, is the development of the local - what we call area board - the local community participation group, where they have their own membership and elect their own Board of Trustees. I've always said that as important as specific services are for the poor, what is essential is the possibility of the poor to participate in planning, participate in policy, and participate as employees if they either have the skills or the skills can be developed in the programs that come into Newark.

"Both to the degree that we've been able to organize our Area Boards and make it possible for people to have a say in the programs that are being developed, I think this is our greatest asset - one of the things that I'm very proud of... In the City of Newark, we have representatives from our Area Board on an advisory committee to the Senior Citizens Commission, they help plan a legal service program and will sit on the governing board of that program, they sit on the governing board of the Newark Pre-School Council which was created by people in the community and they were part of the planning, and right on down the line - the people in

the communities to be affected by this program have participated in planning. And where new structures were created, they have been a part of the policy board of those new structures.

"I think, secondly, I would be proud of the fact that the United Community Corporation gave most of its money - out of the Community Action section of the act - during the first year, to various aspects of education. It made it very clear to the community that the Anti-Poverty agency had a commitment to education in the city which had been a pressing concern of all the people of the city of Newark."

SCOTT: "And since we are still early in 1966, do you have well-defined goals for the following year?"

TYSON: "Well I think that the Corporation will probably be moving towards a more clarified manpower concept. We have many training programs in the city of Newark, both Neighborhood Youth Corps and on-job training, and we have a Skill Center, and there'll be other training programs.

"There's training going on under Title 5, of the Economic Opportunity Act, that will - assistance program.

"But these programs have to be effectively coordinated so that the various steps to employability are very clear. A person can only stay in the Neighborhood Youth Corps program for - the maximum is about a year. Where does he go after that? Back on the streets? Is he really prepared for a job, or was it just the fact that this gave him some basic understanding of work. You

come in at 9:00, you have to leave at 5:00, your grooming and learning how to be able to supervise and so on. Some of these young people can move into on-job training programs - it's a little bit more specialized, reflecting some analysis of their skills and the first year of NYC - Neighborhood Youth Corps.

"Where do they go from there? I think that Newark has to begin to look at this whole manpower concept, so that we don't find that the people who are involved in training end up falling between the cracks."

SCOTT: "With this, in itself, help the City of Newark to lick its own problems?"

TYSON: "Oh yes."

ELDRIDGE: "One of the charges that is made most frequently against Anti-Poverty agencies, including the one in Newark, is that of extravagance. And your agency recently presented a new budget for the year 1966, for about a million and a half dollars. This is now being reviewed, as I understand it, by the federal government. I also understand that there's only about 3 million dollars in community action money available for Newark during the current fiscal year, and I wondered if an operating budget of a million and a half dollars - or about 50% of the available funds - is reasonable, and whether there will be enough money left for other actual operating Anti-Poverty programs."

TYSON: "Well, for one, I would indicate that even though there is an equation that determines what all cities would get through the Committee Action section of the act, Newark has been

placed in a category of cities where continuous evaluations can be made. So that it's possible for Newark to get more than that which was originally allocated because of the problems of Newark.

"Secondly, as you know, Doug, we're not a monster agency in the sense that all of the programs we operate ourselves - we contract out programs to existing institutions and new institutions that are created, or organizations. The only program that we have run directly has been the organizing of the Area Board. The second program that we'll be moving, within the new budget, is the Community Action Institute, which is to train the Board of Trustees of the local Area Board, members of various committees, staff, and so on so that they will be able to fully participate and learn the skills that many of us take for granted - the skills necessary to function in a democratic society."

SCOTT: "What sort of skills do you mean there?"

TYSON: "Well, decision-making, how to plan program, to begin to understand how institutions - both public and private - function in a community, how to use them effectively to come to grips with the problems. Many people who are poor, have never had this opportunity to participate in institutional life, so that they don't know how to use the institutions even if they were given a proper opportunity.

"Now the question of how much money available - as you know there are many programs that are in Washington. We've got a Senior Citizens Proposal that's well over two million dollars and that would

be administered by the city administration. I think that there would be no question, but that we will have to slowly establish clearer priorities. I think that we have to begin to insure that money is left to fund community-based programs - programs developed by the poor even as distinct from city agency programs.

"But I don't : think there's a problem around the United Community Corporation in what percent of the budget it uses, because we've always used a very small percent. Our last grant of over three million dollars - I think our operating part of that budget may have been \$200,000 or less. Most of that money, as you know, went into education. Over two million dollars.

"So, we are are different from ~~so~~ many Anti-Poverty agencies because we try to get the money into the existing institutions and the new ones that are created for specific needs, rather than trying to do all these jobs ourselves."

SCOTT: "Speaking of education, last week in his inaugural address, Mr. Tyson, Governor Hughes stressed education. He said that he hoped this session of the legislature would be known as the Education Legislature. Now I know that he's appointed you on his Adult Education Task Force. Has this Task Force been activated?"

TYSON: "I don't think it's had its initial meeting as yet, but I'm very happy to have been ~~supposed~~ appointed to that task force. I think the Governor knows of my commitment to education - it's been evidenced by our original first year's allocation. And we

work closely with the Board of Education and we've had discussions about adult education programming. So that I look forward not only to that task force being a significant task force for the state of Jersey, but I look forward to the fact that if funds are available and if Jersey can utilize these funds, creatively, in the area of education that Jersey is going to go a long way towards upgrading its communities. Because education in Jersey has been a sore problem for a long time, not only vacation education, but academic education. There's a shortage of junior colleges, for example, which could be very ~~help~~ helpful in your major urban centers. Newark doesn't have one. It makes it difficult, then, to provide programs, let's say, of two-year duration where you can train young people where they can move into industry in certain specialized skill areas.

"So that I'm hoping that in his next term of office, that we can really move ahead on education."

SCOTT: "And this is not said from a parochial viewpoint. I understand you still retain your New York residence."

TYSON: "Yes, I still retain my New York residence."

SCOTT: "Why have you not moved to New Jersey, say?"

TYSON: "Because when I initially came to Jersey I made a short-term commitment as a technician to come and help Jersey plan and design these programs so that it could move in the right direction. I've always assumed that we would be able to develop the talent in the City of Newark to lead this program through the many years of its life. Towards that end, I would say 80% of my

staff live in Newark and 95% in Essex County. So I have a commitment to hire as many people in Newark as possible and through their involvement in our program to learn and develop and to be able to assume leadership in this area."

ELDRIDGE: "Do you have any idea how long you will remain in Newark? Or where you might go after you're done with the United Community Corporation?"

TYSON: "No."

SCOTT: "That's no to both questions?"

TYSON: "That's right."

ELDRIDGE: "I wonder is there any danger that the Anti-Poverty program, like some other federal programs notably Urban Renewal, is going to become so complex that the ordinary citizen will have very little opportunity to understand what's going on and to have any real role in it. And, of course, this is particularly important in the Anti-Poverty program."

TYSON: "I think that's always possible with any program. I don't think that will be a problem in the City of Newark because we are organizing the people in Area Board where they are playing a key role in decision-making about programs. This is why it's important to establish channels of communication and channels for participation. With effective broad-based participation by the people in Newark in anti-poverty programming, both on their own boards, on the various committees - planning committees and policy positions - represented on our own governing Board of Trustees,

it makes less possible this problem which you've presented."

ELDRIDGE: "But isn't the structure already becoming so elaborate that it's difficult even sometimes for your own leaders of the Corporation to follow exactly what's going on, or who's move is next, or where a proposal should go from here?"

TYSON: "No, I don't think it's because the structure is elaborate, I think it's because the structure is new. And I think that - you know we're pretty young and, as you know, we've been there a year, but I didn't hire my first staff person until three to four months along the way in the year. So I think that elaborateness is not as much a problem, I think the problem is that ~~any~~ whole lot of people are involved in new kinds of efforts and in new relationships that never existed before in Newark.

"And, we will have a shakedown on this and we're going to get to know how best to relate to each other and how we can make this program as effective as possible and eliminate - or keep to the minimum - that kind of problem."

SCOTT: "In that first year, Mr. Tyson, you had a great deal of controversy, you had - I'm afraid - a great deal of explaining to do to certain parties, I know that Representative Adam Clayton Powell sent an investigative force in to see what was going on. How much time do you spend covering your back door, so to speak, and how much time do you ~~xmnd~~ spend looking forward to ~~in~~ other programs?"

TYSON: "Well, since we don't work an eight or nine hour day, it's more like - I think Doug knows - 12, 13, and 14, we have still

been able, effectively, to get the programs into Washington, to involve the people in the planning, and then get the programs back into the community.

"Yes, it does take a lot of time if you have a city council investigation or other investigators who come up because they've heard about some of the growing pains of Newark and have prepared the material that demand it, but I think that that's part of the ball game. The public has right to know, investigatory committees play a proper function in keeping their fingers on the ~~mm~~ pulse of programs that - since they legislate the funds they have a responsibility to ensure that these funds are used to ~~in~~ the best interests of the community - and I think that we have to learn to accept that as part of the ball game and to cooperate with these committees who are performing a proper function and try to become as little ruffled as possible."

SCOTT: "Well, there's another purpose to be served here. Did any of these people come up with anything valid which you were able to correct yourself which makes for a better service for the ~~all~~ poor people of Newark?"

TYSON: "Well the only report that I have read has been this City Council report, and, frankly, there's nothing in that report that I have read that is substantive. Where there has been a question as to government participation in our program - this is something that our Corporation has long recognized, so that - and I don't think that, if I remember the City Council report, they didn't address themselves to that as much. I think their major

concern was in some way that I was the - some kind of despotic leader or something in controlling the ~~mmp~~ corporation and even though we provided them with information to show our constitution and bylaws and how the corporation is structured, that I don't make the policies my board makes the policies, it never quite was clear to them. I think they're confusing the policy-making function with the fact that I did bring a particular philosophy and a certain kind of expertise to Newark, and I think, possibly that that committee's - or I understand ~~it~~ there was a minority group report, so at least two members of that committee the two Councilman - I think probably their concern is more with the philosophy than the fact that I in some way control the corporation. Because I certainly do not."

SCOTT: "You're not the despotic leader in the corporation?"

TYSON: "No."

SCOTT: "How about Adam Clayton Powell's investigation, what did that come up with?"

TYSON: "Well I haven't received an official report, but certainly in my chats with the investigators they did indicate that one of the interesting things was the ~~extent~~ to which there was limited governmental participation on our board. We had the Mayor, two city councilman, and about three or four directors of agencies.

"But, again, that was something that we were aware of so that, other than that, my general impression has been that Washington has

been happy and satisfied that we are trying to activate maximum feasible participation and that even though that it's maybe a distinctive and different way than other cities that it's worthwhile."

ELDRIDGE: "The leaders of the United Community Corporation have often said that Newark is coming closer than Anti-Poverty agencies in many other cities in carrying out the spirit of the Economic Opportunity Act and involving the people in the community. Yet, when federal officials are asked which programs they consider the most successful, they will often list other cities. Sometimes will include Newark, sometimes not. Will the federal officials back up your view at the UCC, that you are doing better than the other agencies? Have you gotten anyone to confirm this position?"

TYSON: "No, and I don't think - by no means I don't think the issue for the federal government is that we are doing it better than other agencies. I think that Mr. Shriver, and I agree with his position, has said often that the configuration may vary in different communities, depending on the circumstances, depending on what forces have been brought to bear. His major concern is that each community evolve the appropriate kind of structure that best meets that community's needs.

"If he feels that there is not enough participation of the poor, they have a veto power - in terms of holding up funds until a configuration that begins to meet this consensus emerges. So I don't think that he, or anyone else, should be boxed in as to choosing which is better or best. I think if we were not functioning within the spirit, we would not be getting funds from the federal

government - that's for sure."

SCOTT: "Well, I'd like to thank both of you gentlemen for this morning's appearance on New Jersey Report.

"My guests have been Cyril D. Tyson, Executive Director of the United Community Corporation of Newark. That's that city's Anti-Poverty agency.

"And Douglas Eldridge, reporter of the Newark News.

"Next week on New Jersey Report, Channel 9 will be proud to present an interview with John Kerlig, the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey. That's next Sunday morning at Channel 9, at 9:30, for New Jersey Report.

"Again, gentlemen, my thanks to you both for your appearance this morning - Mr. Tyson and Mr. Eldridge.

"This is John Scott of WOR-TV News. Good morning."

